

**Ministry of Education and Science Republic
of Latvia**

**National Centre for Education
(VISC)**

April, 2010

VISC

What is VISC?

- ✿ an institution of public administration subordinated to the Ministry of Education and Science.

When was VISC established?

- ✿ July 1st, 2009

- ✿ VISC= Centre for Curriculum Development and Examinations + National Youth Initiative Centre + National Centre for Special Education + Vocational Education Administration

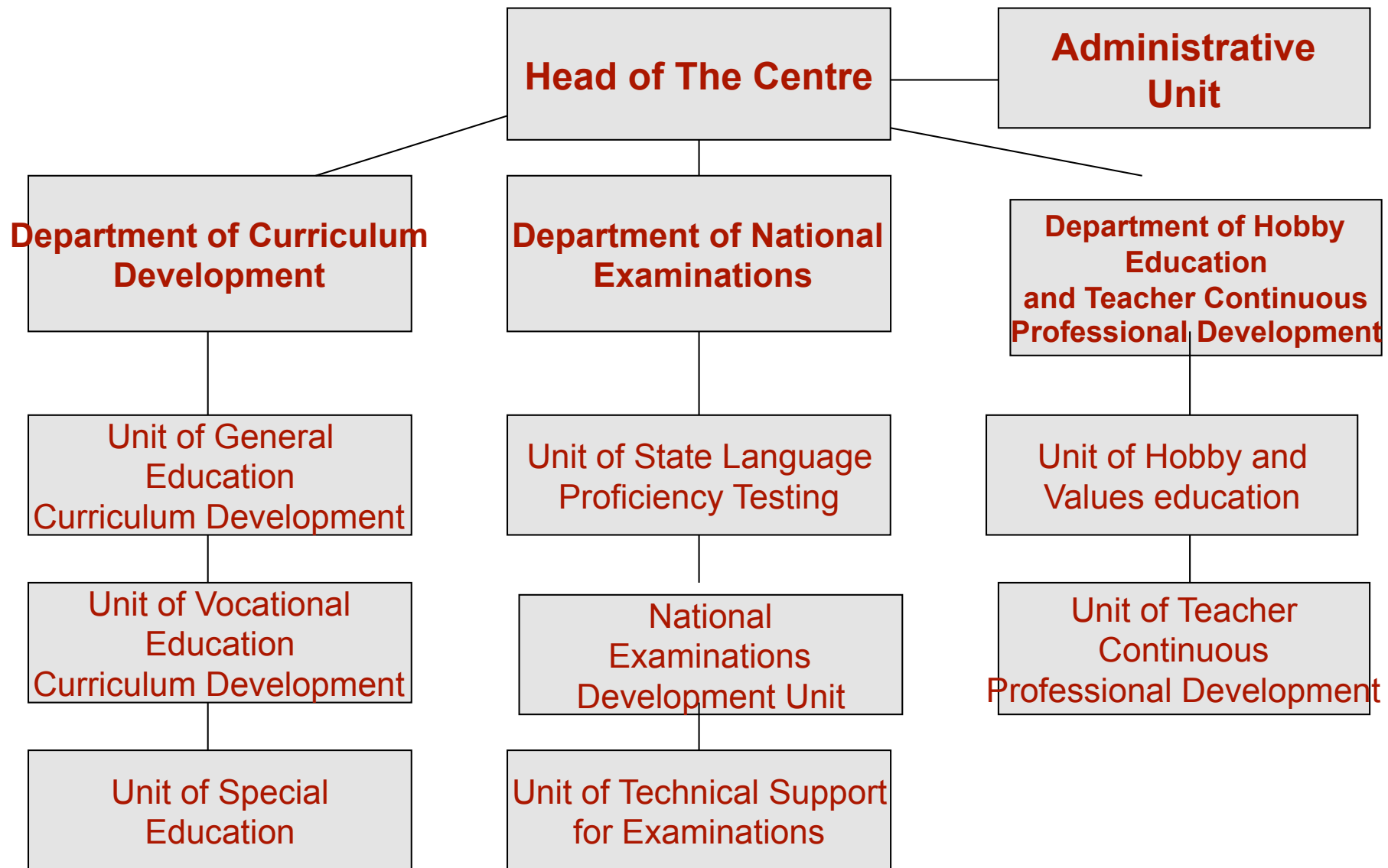
Values of VISC



Knowledge, quality, accuracy, high sense of responsibility.

And VISC:

- ❖ highly appreciates cooperation;
- ❖ likes to work in a united, professional team;
- ❖ is interested in the experience of others, and want to share its own experience.



VISC activities affect:

- ✿ 830 general education institutions;
- ✿ 216 0307 students in general education;
- ✿ 23108 teachers in general education;
- ✿ 83 vocational education institutions;
- ✿ 35 767 students in vocational education;
- ✿ 4250 teachers in professional education;
- ✿ 57 higher education institutions.

(2010/2011 school year;
data source: Ministry of Education and Science)

VISC functions

- ✿ Curriculum development (general and vocational education);
- ✿ Coordination of support system for children with special education needs
- ✿ Coordination of teacher CPD;
- ✿ Implementation of EU structural fund projects and EU Lifelong Learning program projects;
- ✿ Development and implementation of national examinations;
- ✿ State language proficiency testing;
- ✿ Coordination of hobby and values education system;
- ✿ Coordination subject Olympiads for general education students;
- ✿ Coordination of professional skills competitions for vocational education students;
- ✿ Coordination of students' scientific research work;
- ✿ Organization of Latvian School Youth Song and Dance Festivals

Curriculum development

- ✿ Curriculum development for basic education and general secondary education;
- ✿ Vocational education (basic and secondary) curriculum development;
- ✿ Coordination of development of textbooks in general and vocational education in compliance with national standards;
- ✿ Coordination of support system for students with special needs.

Vocational education

- ✿ Develops vocational education curriculum in compliance with the national standards;
- ✿ Develops syllabus for examinations;
- ✿ Coordinates the organisation of the national qualification examinations;
- ✿ Provides consultations for educational institutions;
- ✿ Develops profession standards;
- ✿ Enhance the role of social dialogue in vocational education curriculum development;
- ✿ Coordinates development of sample programs for vocational education;
- ✿ Evaluates vocational education programs in compliance with national secondary vocational education standards and profession standards;
- ✿ Coordinates development of textbooks for vocational education;
- ✿ Organizes development of teaching and support materials for vocational education.

Assessment and Examinations

At the end of grade 3:

- ✿ combined test (native language + mathematics);
- ✿ Latvian Language test for minority education programs.

At the end of grade 6:

- ✿ test in Native Language;
- ✿ test in Mathematics;
- ✿ Latvian Language test for minority education programs;
- ✿ Test in General Science.

At the end of basic education (grade 9):

- ✿ Examination in a Foreign Language;
- ✿ Examination in History;
- ✿ Examination in Mathematics;
- ✿ Centralized Latvian Language examination for minority education programs;
- ✿ Latvian as the native language examination;
- ✿ Examination in Minority Language for minority education programs.

Examinations at the End of Secondary Education

Centrally marked examinations:

- ✿ in a Foreign Language;
- ✿ in Latvian Language and Literature;
- ✿ in Mathematics;

One examination according to a student's choice.

State Language Proficiency Testing

- ✿ For people who need Certificate of State Language Knowledge to perform certain job;
- ✿ For people who want to apply for permanent residence in Latvia

Teacher Continuous Professional Development

Coordinates Teacher Continuous Professional Development System:

- ✿ provides guidance and support for teacher CPD program implementers;
- ✿ Evaluates and approves teacher CPD programs;
- ✿ Maintains CPD program catalogue register.

Hobby and Values Education

- ✿ Coordinates hobby education system and implements varied activities to promote development of students' personality and talents;
- ✿ Every five years organizes Latvian School Youth Song and Dance Festival.



VISC

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